

State Water Resources Control Board  
Division of Water Quality --- Water Quality Certification Program

**Public Notice of  
Application for Water Quality Certification (Dredge/Fill Projects)  
and  
Intent to Adopt a Mitigated Negative Declaration  
for the  
Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E)  
Vaca Dixon-Lakeville 230 Kilovolt (kV) Reconductoring Project**

State Water Resources Control Board file no. SB130005N  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers file no. 2014-00091N

September 16, 2014

Pursuant to federal law (Title 33, United States Code, Section 1341; Clean Water Act, Section 401), applicants for a federal license or permit for activities that may discharge to waters of the United States must seek Water Quality Certification (Certification) from the state or Indian Tribe with jurisdiction. Such Certification is based on a finding that the discharge will meet water quality standards and other applicable requirements. In California, Regional Water Quality Control Boards (Regional Water Boards) issue or deny Certification for discharges within their geographical jurisdiction. The State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) has this responsibility for projects affecting waters within two or more Regional Water Board jurisdictions.

PG&E is requesting a Certification for the Vaca Dixon-Lakeville 230 Kilovolt (kV) Reconductoring Project (Project) from the State Water Board. The State Water Board must comply with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA; Pub. Resources Code, Section 21000 et seq.) when issuing a Certification for the Project. The State Water Board, as lead agency for CEQA compliance, has directed the preparation of, and intends to adopt, a Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) for the Project. The MND is based on the finding that the proposed Project would not have a significant adverse effect on the environment. The State Water Board will regulate this project pursuant to its authority under Section 401 of the Clean Water Act and/or the California Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act.

The following information is provided in satisfaction of the public notice requirements of Section 15072 of the CEQA Guidelines for a MND, and Section 3858, Title 23, of the California Code of Regulations, which govern the State's Certification Program.

**Applicant:** Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E)

**Applicant Contact:** Mr. Brandon Liddell  
Senior Land Planner  
PG&E Environmental Management  
245 Market Street Mail Code N10A  
San Francisco, CA 94105

**Project Name:** Vaca Dixon-Lakeville 230 Kilovolt (kV) Reconductoring Project

**Date of Application:** September 11, 2013

**Affected County:** Napa, Solano, Sonoma

**Background:** PG&E owns and operates the double circuited, 230-kilovolt transmission line that runs between the Vaca Dixon Substation in Vacaville and Lakeville Substation near Petaluma (VDL Line).

The VDL Line serves customers in Lake, Mendocino, Sonoma, Napa, and Marin Counties, supplementing electricity from the Geysers with electricity from other sources in the Sacramento Valley. Emergency capacity of the existing VDL Line could be exceeded under peak summer or worst-case power flow conditions.

**Project Description:** In order to ensure power transmission during peak conditions and meet projected increasing electric load demands, PG&E proposes to replace the existing conductors (i.e., reconductor) on the double-circuited VDL Line with conductors having an increased emergency rating. PG&E proposes to add 700 megawatts of capacity to the VDL Line, which would increase reliability and responsive support in the service area during outages within the local system. The project includes modifications to approximately 189 existing steel lattice towers along the line and to equipment at Vaca Dixon, Tulacay, and Lakeville Substations to accept the new conductors. Approximately 39 cage top extensions of the towers will be installed along the transmission line, and one tubular steel pole within the Tulacay Substation. Three to four towers would be equipped with red obstruction lighting in accordance with Federal Aviation Administration requirements. One tower's foundation would be reinforced. To provide system redundancy if any outages occur during construction, a temporary line of wood poles would be installed within 1,000 feet of the Tulacay Substation. In two locations, existing distribution lines crossing beneath the VDL Line would be lowered to provide safe clearance. The Project would take approximately 16 to 24 months to complete. Construction is expected to begin in summer of 2015, with an energization date in December 2017 or sooner. Impacts related to construction of the Project include 0.143 acre and 355 linear feet of permanent impacts and 0.022 acre and 51 linear feet of temporary impacts to 19 waters of the United States.

**Project Location\*:** This Project includes modifications to the VDL Line, an approximately 40-mile line originating at the Vaca Dixon Substation, located in Solano County at 5221 Quinn Road in the City of Vacaville (See Figure 1, below for map of Project location). From Vaca Dixon Substation, the VDL Line travels approximately 4.1 miles west to approximately Gibson Canyon Road north of Vacaville, and then travels approximately 19.1 miles southwest to Tulucay Substation (located near the intersection of Highway 221 and Anderson Way) south of Napa. From Tulucay Substation, it travels approximately 16.9 miles west to Lakeville Substation (adjacent to the intersection of Old Adobe Road and Frates Road) near the City of Petaluma. The Project primarily spans undeveloped, rural residential, and agricultural areas. The VDL Line crosses Interstate 505 and Highways 12, 29, 116, 121, and 221 and several waterways, including the Napa River and Sonoma Creek.

**Public Review Period:** Staff will consider all comments submitted in writing and received at this office by email or mail during a 30-day comment period for the CEQA document that begins on September 22, 2014 and ends at 5:00 p.m. on October 22, 2014. Written comments should be submitted to the following address:

**State Water Board Staff Contact:**

*Joanna Jensen, Environmental Scientist*  
Water Quality Certification Unit, Division of Water Quality  
State Water Resources Control Board  
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Copies of the IS/MND may be obtained online at the State Water Board's website at [http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water\\_issues/programs/cwa401/notices/2014.shtml](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/cwa401/notices/2014.shtml), or reviewed during normal business hours, by contacting Ms. Jensen at (916) 341-5587 or by email at [Joanna.Jensen@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:Joanna.Jensen@waterboards.ca.gov), or by visiting the State Water Board at the aforementioned location.

